

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on October 5, 2005 has been given careful consideration. Applicant's representative would like to thank the examiner for the courtesies extended during an October 25, 2005 telephone conference in which the examiner indicated that the below amendments to the specification and claims would place the application in condition for allowance.

The Office Action

The Specification is objected to for minor informalities.

The Drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a).

Claims 1, 6, 17, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lys, et al. (US 6,340,868).

Claims 2-5, 9, 12-16, 18-25, and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Lys, et al. (US 6,340,868).

Claims 7, 8, 12, 27, 28, and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Lys, et al. (US 6,340,868) in view of Custers, et al. (US 6,305,874).

Objection to the Specification

The examiner has objected to the specification for minor informalities. In particular, the term "carrier" used in the claims is described in the Detailed Description as a "support rail 30." The Detailed Description has been amended herein, pursuant to the examiner's suggestion, to disclose that the terms "carrier" and "support rail 30" are synonymous. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

Objection to the Drawings

The examiner has objected to the drawings for not showing the "carrier" element recited in the claims. As described in the preceding paragraph, the term "carrier" used in the claims is the "support rail 30," which is illustrated in Figures 5 and 6. In view of the foregoing, this objection should be withdrawn.

The Anticipation Rejection

The examiner has rejected claims 1, 6, 17, and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Lys, et al. (US 6,340,868). Independent claims 1 and 17 have been amended herein to include the aspects of claims 10 and 30, respectively, deemed as allowable subject matter by the examiner. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

The Obviousness Rejections

The examiner has rejected claims 2-5, 9, 12-16, 18-25, and 29 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Lys, et al. and claims 7, 8, 12, 27, 28, and 32 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable by Lys, et al. in view of Custers, et al. (US 6,305,874). The subject claims depend from independent claims 1 or 17, which are allowable for the above-noted reasons. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons detailed above, it is respectfully submitted all claims remaining in the application (Claims 1-9, 11-29, 31-43 and 45-57) are now in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
FAY, SHARPE, FAGAN,
MINNICH & McKEE, LLP



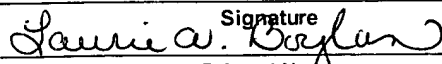
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10/26/05
Date

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I certify that this Amendment is being

- ☒ deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class mail, addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.
- ☐ transmitted via facsimile in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.8 on the date indicated below
- ☐ deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 C.F.R. 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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